

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated February 3, 2009.

Claims 1-2 and 4-13 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, the drawings were objected to for an informality. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 10 and 11 were rejected unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 2,987,349 to Kretzmer Jr. ("Kretzmer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,142,845 to Leppanen ("Leppanen"). Claims 4, 5, and 12 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kretzmer in view of Leppanen and further in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0048969 to Hunter et al ("Hunter"). Claims 6-9 and 13 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Kretzmer in view of Leppanen in view of Hunter and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,486,577 to Ursel et al ("Ursel").

The Applicant has filed an appeal of the final rejection of the claims as obvious over the cited combinations of references.

With regard to the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 11 and 12 as indefinite, claim 11 has been amended herein to delete the term "blind hole", which addresses both the rejection under Section 112, as well as the objection to the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,


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